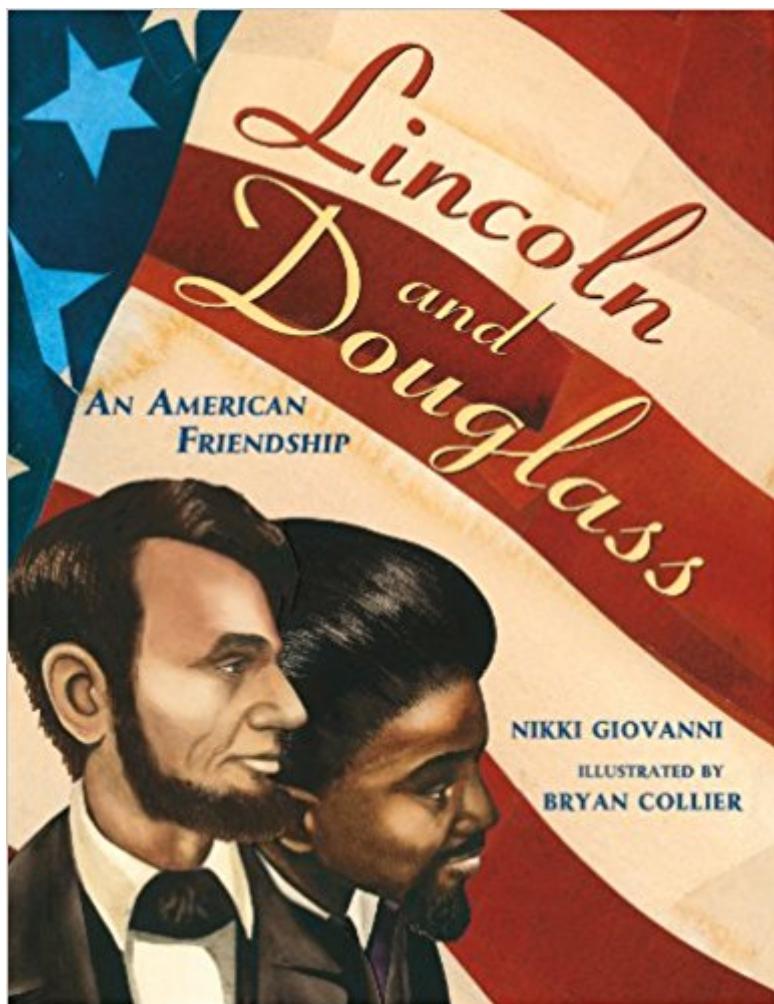


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# Lincoln And Douglass: An American Friendship



## **Synopsis**

Our sixteenth president is known for many things: he delivered the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address during the Civil War. He was tall and skinny and notoriously stern-looking. And he also had some very strong ideas about abolishing slavery, ideas which brought him into close contact with another very visible public figure: Frederick Douglass. Douglass was born a slave but escaped in 1838 and became one of the central figures in the history of the American abolitionist movement. This book offers a glimpse into the unusual friendship between two great American leaders. At a time when racial tensions were high and racial equality was not yet established, Abraham Lincoln and Douglass formed a strong bond over shared ideals and worked alongside each other for a common goal. Nikki Giovanni and Bryan Collier, the acclaimed team behind *Rosa*, winner of the Coretta Scott King Award and a Caldecott Honor book, join forces once more to portray this historic friendship at a unique moment in time.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 970 (What's this?)

Paperback: 44 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250018692

ISBN-13: 978-1250018694

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #514,376 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #142 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > U. S. Presidents & First Ladies #327 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #698 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 7 - 11 years

Grade Level: 2 - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

The collaborators of the well-received *Rosa* (2005) come together again, but disappointingly this time. The setting here is an 1865 inaugural reception at the White House, where Frederick Douglass is an invited guest. Douglass is sent to a rear door but refuses that entrance. Did any of this actually

happen? Who knows? There are no source notes, only a time line. Moreover, Mary Todd Lincoln is inaccurately portrayed (one of the worst lapses of the book) as a Southern sympathizer, saying no Negro should be at the White House, yet history tells us she was against slavery and even sent Lincoln's walking stick to Douglass after the president was assassinated. The narrative itself is choppy, with the incident at Harper's Ferry "not very well explained" stuck in the middle of the book. Collier's stylized collage art is occasionally a saving grace, especially in the scenes of both men's boyhoods, and a fold-out spread that juxtaposes the horror of war against a glittering White House ball is quite spectacular. The relationship between Douglass and Lincoln could make for a fascinating book, but this one is only a very secondary purchase until something better (and better documented) comes along. Grades 1-4. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Clear, accessible storytelling...the story of two powerful men who shaped the course of the United States, but also a brief history of the war that raged while they forged a fast but deep friendship." •Publishers Weekly

Nikki Giovanni actually read portions of this book aloud to me (and others) at an event on April 18th, 2011 at the university I attend. She has a dry, quirky sense of humor that I really enjoyed, so I had to order this book. And I liked it! It was nice to see a new side of these American leaders. My only complaint is that the pages about Harper's Ferry and John Brown (while important) take the focus away from Lincoln's and Douglass' story.

Younster really liked it! Good read for children.

Great book for any child above 1st grade.

It is a great book for the kids and family too. I am very pleased to add it to our home library.

My favorite president ever was Abraham Lincoln and man who every US man should strive to be like as well as Frederick Douglass who also knew the truths and held them accountable. This picture book is about the friendship of these two honest men who were wise beyond their years. Together the two would be invincible if greedy men had not changed the inevitable. This picture book is rich with friendship and honesty. Written by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier and

published by Henry Holt and Company. #history #PB #friendship #abolishslavery #equalrights

This book does a good job of introducing children to a difficult time in America's past through the friendship of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. I like books that introduce children to our nation's history, and do not shy away from our past wrongs. The Civil War was complicated and slavery is hard for children to grasp, so although this book may not fully address these topics it at least is a starting point to what will hopefully be a much longer education of a child in American History. I give this book a thumbs up. ~The Librarian Uncle

Don't get me wrong. I am a huge Bryan Collier fan, and this book does not disappoint on the illustrations. But for historical information, I would suggest these books instead: Words Set Me Free: The Story of Young Frederick Douglass (Paula Wiseman Books) Frederick Douglass: Abolitionist Hero (Childhood of Famous Americans) Why not try them all?

In this book, the illustrations are so dark that everybody at the Inaugural Ball (and on both sides of the Civil War battle scene!) looks African American. The book opens with a whopping historical error: Mrs. Lincoln in sympathy with slavery. And the real substance of this historic friendship (Douglass arguing rightly that "colonizing" freed blacks to Africa and Central America was a bad idea; Lincoln disagreed, but gradually changed his mind) is not even hinted at. Now that is a complex topic, but a great children's book would grapple with it somehow, and demonstrate for kids how two great minds can have a sharp debate and yet respect each other. A friendship with no edge is no friendship at all. And a book with no merit should not be published.

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